

while those which have outlived their utility can be adandoned altogether. Other economy measures initiated by the Government in the past few years include curbs on expenditure on travel including foreign travel, expenditure on conferences, seminars, publicity, fuel consumption, deferment of festivals, fairs, exhibitions and international conferences wherever firm commitments have not already been made. The Budget for 1991-92 contained a number of measures to curtail expenditure. Among the major items is the abolition of export subsidies. All Ministries have been asked to cut expenditure by 5% and surrender 10% of the telephone lines.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact decrease in expenditure on account of the abovementioned measures. Less expenditure as a result of economy measures effected is not accounted for separately/distinctly. The expenditure finally adjusted against a particular head is the net position taking into account the additional requirements offset by savings due to economy measures. The net expenditure would have been higher but for measures taken to curtail the expenditure.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Import of Silk from China**

805. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether silk is being imported from China;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of silk imported during the last one year;

(c) the policy laid down by the Govern-

ment for the distribution of this imported silk; and

(d) the quantity of this silk given to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). Due to outbreak of Pebrine disease in the rearing areas of major silk producing States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, there was decline in the arrivals of cocoons in the cocoon markets, which ultimately affected the availability as well as prices of raw silk in the country. The Central Silk Board and the concerned State Governments have already initiated various measures for control of the disease.

In order to stabilize the prices of raw silk and to provide raw silk to the weavers at reasonable rates, the Government of India has permitted import of 200 Metric Tonnes of raw silk by the Central Silk Board and designated agencies. The organisations have the choice to import silk from any source depending on their requirements. However it is likely that most of the imports will be from china.

The imported raw silk will be distributed to weavers through State agencies such as State Handloom Development Corporation, State Apex Handloom Weavers Societies, National Handloom Development Corporation and State Directors of Handloom & Textiles. In the first instance, 15 metric tonnes of raw silk have been earmarked for Karnataka.

#### **Development of Waterways**

806. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop water transport in Ganga, Sarau,

Brahmaputra, Yamuna and other major rivers; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes proposed to be implemented in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Central Government is responsible for development of water transport in National Waterways. At present, Allahabad-Haldia (1620 Kms.) on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System and Sadiya-Dhubri (891 Kms.) in Brahmaputra have been declared as National Waterways. Government also propose to declare Kollam-Kottapuram Stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals as National Waterway.

(b) Details of Schemes sanctioned/proposed in Ganga and Brahmaputra National Waterways are as follows:—

1. River Conservancy works on Ganga.
2. Construction of terminal at Gaighat (Patna).
3. Construction of terminal at G.R. Jetty in Calcutta.
4. Setting up of infrastructural facilities between Haldia and Farakka.
5. Provision of Navigational aids on Ganga.
6. River conservancy works on Brahmaputra.
7. Provision of navigational aids on Brahmaputra.

[Translation]

### Fall in Exports

807. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strict trade rules of America have resulted in fall of India's exports;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to acquaint the industrialists with the new trade rules of America so that they may not face any problems while doing business; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to overcome the problem of balance of payment which has arisen by the trade rules of America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to DGCI&S, Calcutta there was an increase in our exports to USA. During April–November (1991–92) exports were \$ 1852.97 million as against \$ 1772.21 million during the corresponding period on 1990–91. Quotas on textile products and anti-dumping and countervailing duty proceedings constitute the main impediments to India's export to USA. This year the problems have increased due to recession in USA and effect of import curbs on industrial production in India.

(b) and (c). Consultations are held between the two Governments both bilaterally and multi-laterally to address our concerns on trade and related economic policies and to consider measures to reduce and eliminate impediments to trade investment flows. Increase in bilateral trade textile quota has been secured for 1992 through negotiations. An attempt has been made in the Uruguay Round to improve the GATT rule on counter-